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Distance in language : grounding a metaphor

Edited by: Sonnenhauser, Barbara ; Meermann, Anastasia

Abstract: The conceptual metaphor of ‘distance’ plays a crucial role in current perceptions of the world and humans’ various interactions within it. It hardly seems possible to conceptualize space and time, emotional involvement in events, and relationships with other people in terms other than ‘distance’. As a consequence, this primarily spatial concept figures prominently in the verbal expression of these abstract notions, and is thus highly relevant for the analysis of linguistic phenomena. In recent decades, ‘distance’ has been employed as a fruitful tool in different, primarily cognitive and functional, approaches. However, the explanatory power of this notion suffers from certain inconsistencies: On the one hand, very different linguistic phenomena are described in terms of ‘distance’, while, on the other, the notion itself relates to disparate concepts. By providing a thorough grounding of the metaphor of distance, the present volume makes this notion tangible and thus applicable in various domains of linguistic analysis. The contributions gathered in this volume provide a concise delimitation from neighbouring concepts, and explore the rich potential of this metaphor for the analysis of the semantics, usage conditions and discourse-pragmatic effects of both morpho-syntactic categories and syntactic structures. They also investigate the role of ‘distance’ in understanding mechanisms of linguistic interaction. The languages covered in this volume include, amongst others, languages from the Germanic, Romance and Slavic families, as well as Japanese and Turkish.

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ZORA URL: <https://doi.org/10.5167/uzh-111246>

Edited Scientific Work

Supplemental Material

Originally published at:

Distance in language : grounding a metaphor. Edited by: Sonnenhauser, Barbara; Meermann, Anastasia (2015). Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Distance in Language

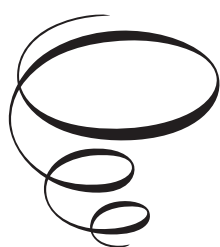
Distance in Language

Grounding a Metaphor

Edited by

Barbara Sonnenhauser
and Anastasia Meermann

Cambridge
Scholars
Publishing



Distance in Language: Grounding a Metaphor

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This book first published 2015

Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Lady Stephenson Library, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 2PA, UK

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

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ISBN (10): 1-4438-7261-X

ISBN (13): 978-1-4438-7261-4

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